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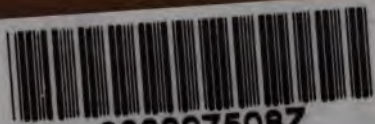
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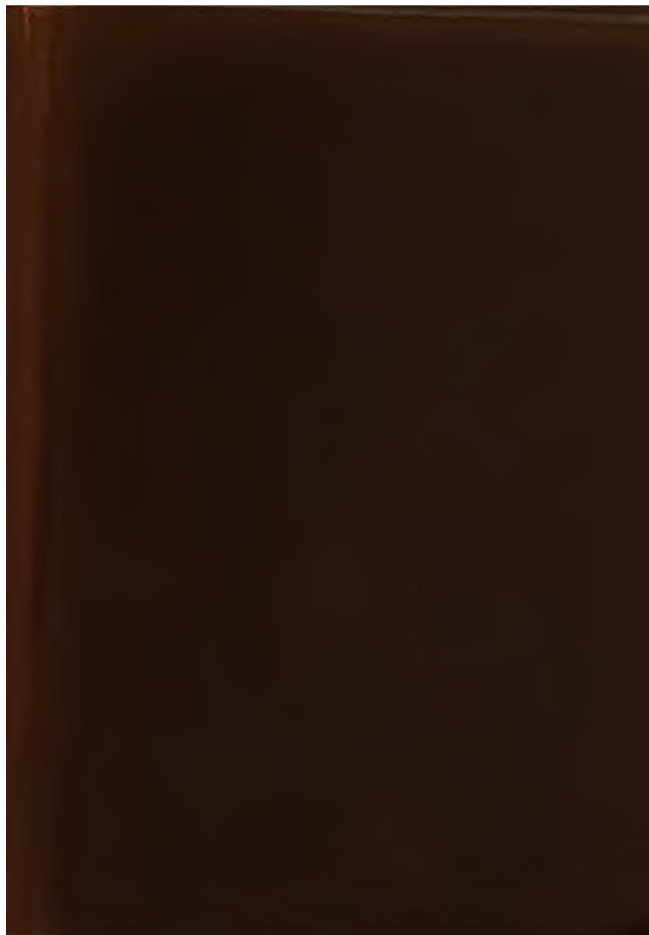
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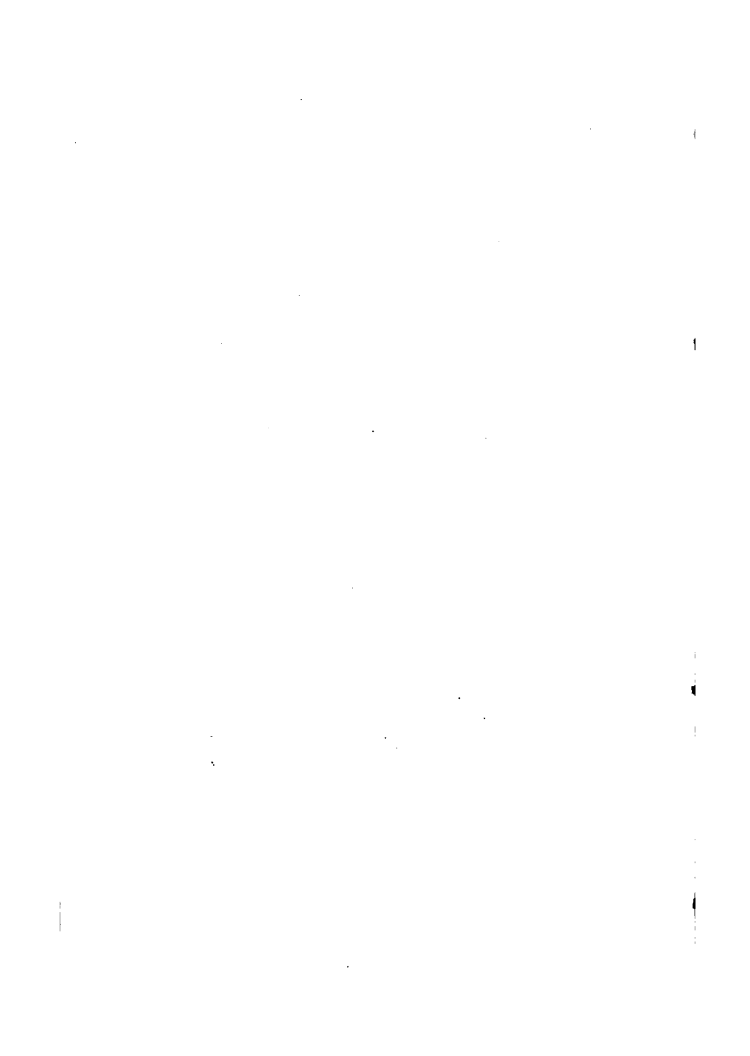
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**A MANUAL**  
**FOR**  
**CHRISTIAN SCHOOLBOYS.**



A MANUAL  
FOR  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLBOYS;

CONTAINING

Short Counsels and Prayers for  
Private Use.

BY THE

REV. C. H. RAMSDEN, M.A.

*Vicar of Chilham, Kent,*

AUTHOR OF 'APOSTOLIC TIMES AND THEIR LESSONS,'

'FAMILY PRAYERS,' &c.

Sixth Edition, Revised and Enlarged.

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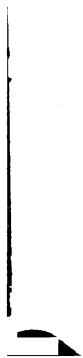
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**LONDON**  
**Printed by JOHN STRANGEWAYS,**  
**Castle St. Leicester Sq.**

IN these simple pages, my aim and desire, dear boys, are to furnish you with a little monitor which may remind you of many a wise admonition and affectionate counsel given you by parents and friends at home. Keep it in your boxes or in your pockets, and look at it now and then with a prayer that it may be useful to you; so perhaps you may, with God's blessing, experience the truth of Solomon's saying, 'A word spoken in due season how good is it!'



### *EARLY DAYS.*

'Tis granted, and no plainer truth appears,  
Our most important are our earliest years.  
The mind impressible and soft, with ease  
Imbibes and copies what she hears and sees,  
And through life's labyrinth holds fast the clue  
That education gives her, false or true.'

COWPER.—*Progress of Error.*

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### *LIFE.*

'Life is His gift, from whom whate'er life needs,  
With every good and perfect gift proceeds ;  
Bestow'd on man, like all that we partake,  
Royally, freely, for His bounty's sake :  
Transient indeed, as is the fleeting hour,  
And yet the seed of an immortal flower,  
Designed in honour of His endless love,  
To fill with fragrance His abode above :  
No trifle, howsoever short it seem,  
And howsoever shadowy, no dream ;  
Its value what no thought can ascertain,  
Nor all an angel's eloquence explain.  
Deal ' not ' with life as children with their play,  
Who first misuse, then cast their toys away.'

COWPER.—*Hope.*



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## Short Counsels.

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### A PRAYER.

LET nothing tempt you to neglect prayer. That day cannot be a happy day which is begun without prayer.

Do not think it enough to pray in bed. Do not be ashamed of others knowing that you pray. Do not go down on your knees in a light and trifling spirit, or rise to join instantly in laughter and jesting. Try to remember through the day what you have prayed for in the morning. Often in the day lift up your heart to God ; asking Him to calm your temper, to curb your tongue, and to cleanse your thoughts.

At the same time do not forget David's



words, '*If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.*' (Ps. lxvi. 18.) Be honest in prayer. It does not keep any one who runs heedlessly into temptation from being overcome by it, to have put up formally the prayer, '*Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*' It saves no man from the sin and danger of hypocrisy to say often the words, 'From pride, vain-glory, and hypocrisy, good Lord, deliver me.' Prayer and watchfulness must go together. There is great need for the petition,—

'Lord, help us this and every day  
To live more nearly as we pray.'

*Christian Year.*

Do not venture to lie down at night upon a bed, from which you may never rise, without prayer. Ask forgiveness for the sins of the day, and protection through the night: ask for the grace of the Holy Spirit to make you a faithful servant of Christ.

*' When Thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto Thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek.' (Ps. xxvii. 8.) ' Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.' (Matt. vii. 7.)*

## THE BIBLE.

NEVER regard the Bible as a mere task-book ; or as a book which it is fit and right to read at home, but weak and unmanly to be seen studying at school. Begin and end every day by reading at least a small portion. You will find it most useful to commit passages of Scripture to memory. Remember whose book the Bible is. Ask its great Author to give you a right understanding of it.

Be prepared to find difficulties in the Bible, but do not be daunted by them. We must not expect '*by searching to find out God,*' or fully to comprehend all that God says and does. Deep humility and child-like faith are needful for those who wish to read with profit the word of God. Let your constant prayer be, '*That which I see not teach Thou me ;*

then shall the promise be graciously fulfilled,  
*'The meek He will guide in judgment, and the  
meek He will teach His way.'*

Do not allow yourself at any time or in any way to use the words of the Bible in jest. It is a dangerous thing to grasp the two-edged sword of the Spirit with a light and irreverent hand. Uzzah died for his rashness in taking hold of the ark of God. (2 Sam. vi. 6, 7.)

Still less, if possible, let the word of God be looked into for purposes of sin ; to feed an impure thought, or give point to a filthy jest. The fearful consequence of acting thus may be that the Word shall prove to you 'a savour of death unto death,' and that you shall be suffered in judgment to draw poison from heavenly food.

*'Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way ? by taking heed thereto according to Thy word.'* (Ps. cxix. 9.)

*'Concerning the works of men, by the word of Thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer.'* (Ps. xvii. 4.)

*'From a child thou hast known' the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.'* (2 Tim. iii. 15.)

See also Ps. xix. 7, 11. Ps. cxix. 104.

John, v. 39. Heb. iv. 12.

## SUNDAYS.

Do not rob God of His day. Give it wholly and honestly to Him. There is enough, and more than enough, on week-days to draw you away from God. Improve His own day in endeavouring to draw nigh to Him. Drop this one day your sports and studies. Read religious books, and seek out a friend with whom you may talk of religious things, and keep alive your love of home.

Be serious, reverent, and attentive in God's house. If others laugh, and talk, and trifle, so do not you. It is a precious privilege to hear the gospel preached, and to join with the congregations of God's worshipping people in prayer and praise. The day will come, when all that you have learnt, and all that you have gained, of a secular nature, will

seem to you poor, mean, and worthless, when compared with the 'things that accompany salvation,' and 'which have to do with your portion for eternity.

With cheerful thankfulness, then, make the most and the best of your Sundays ; praising God for having so graciously provided for the refreshment of your body, and the instruction and sanctification of your soul.

*'God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.'* (Ps. lxxxix. 7.)

*'I gave them My Sabbaths, to be a sign between Me and them, that they might know that I am the Lord that sanctify them.'* (Ezek. xx. 12.)


See also Isa. lviii. 13, 14.

## STUDY.

Be diligent in your studies. Religion must never be made a plea for idleness. Work hard, and well, and steadily, that you may adorn a Christian profession, and please your parents, your teachers, and your God. The most highly cultivated mind, the loftiest talents, the most extensive acquirements, will find ample scope for employment in the service of God. Give of your best to Him.

At the same time you will, of necessity, tread on dangerous ground in your classical studies: keep, therefore, when so engaged, a careful watch over your heart and thoughts.

Redeem the time. You can never recall time which is lost now. It is the sowing time for active, useful life. Store your mind with knowledge:—brace it for energetic work.





Endeavour to form new habits of industry, application, and self-denial. Work heartily ;—play heartily ;—do everything that is lawful and right heartily.

*‘ That the soul be without knowledge, it is not good.’* (Prov. xix. 2.)

*‘ Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might ; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.’* (Eccles. ix. 10.)

## HOME.

Do not try to forget home. Write home as often as you can without interfering with other duties. Keep up home feelings, home affections. There is often much help in the hour of temptation in a softening thought of home.

Remember the care, and love, and anxiety of your parents. Do not allow yourself to speak of them slightly. There is nothing clever or manly in such language. It cannot be 'honouring' your father and mother to use disrespectful slang when speaking of them. Try to repay, in some measure at least, by a useful Christian life, their love, and pains, and sacrifices on your behalf. Let there be careful politeness, studied deference, and con-

siderate attention in all your behaviour towards them.

Perhaps you have had the unhappiness of losing one or both of your parents. If so, a widowed mother demands a more than common measure of tender care and dutiful attention. A father, stript of one who has long shared his joys and sorrows, ought to find much consolation in the love of his children. Or it may be that both parents are at rest with God. How, then, can you hope to meet them again with joy, unless you are walking in their steps?

*'A wise son maketh a glad father, but a foolish man despiseth his mother.'* (Prov. xv. 20.)


See also Prov. xxiii. 22. Prov. xxx. 17.

Eph. vi. 1, 2, 3.

## FRIENDS.

BE courteous to all ; but make a friend of no one who is profligate and profane.

Do not let the rank, or the riches, or the cleverness of any boy attract you to him, if his language and conduct are unbecoming a Christian and a gentleman. You may make friends at school who will be a help and comfort to you through life ; and on the other hand you may be thrown with those who seem never easy except when they are injuring and corrupting others. Carefully avoid such, although they may try to gain your confidence by gifts and flattery. Make friends of your teachers. They are older and wiser than yourself, and are generally anxious to do you good. Let your delight be in the excellent of the earth. You will be, to a very



great extent, measured and influenced by your friends.

*'He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.'* (Prov. xiii. 20.)

*'Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.'* (1 Cor. xv. 33.)

*'I am a companion of all them that fear Thee, and of them that keep Thy precepts.'* (Ps. cxix. 63.)

See also Mal. iii. 16-18.

## BOOKS.

It may not be quite needless to give you a word of caution as to the books which you read in your hours of recreation. Do not, then, read many of the works of fiction which abound in these days. They weaken the mind, and unfit it for useful study. They fill the brain with foolish fancies, and make those who read them too much dislike daily duties and honourable labour. I do not say, read no fiction, but be sparing in the use of it.

Have some useful and religious books always in reading. Improve spare half-hours. Do not read that which is light and trifling just before you are about to read the Bible.

Your character will be very much formed by what you read. As you would choose good friends to talk with, so choose good

books to read ; and just as you would avoid a companion whose conversation was loose and profane, so avoid books however clever which have a tendency to corrupt the mind and make you despise religion.

The power of reading is a most precious talent ; good books are a most precious gift. Use the gift and the talent for the glory of God, the good of your fellow-creatures, and the welfare of your own soul.

## TEMPER.

You will have much to try your temper. Pray for and cultivate a spirit of forbearance and love. It is far more brave to be gentle, generous, and forbearing, than to be contentious, hasty, and quarrelsome. Lions and tigers surpass us in bodily strength. Meekness and lowliness, and acts of self-control and self-denial, make us humble imitators of Him who 'pleased not Himself,' and was 'meek and lowly of heart.'

Seek the blessing pronounced by our Lord and Saviour upon the peace-makers.. (Matt. v. 9.) Compose quarrels instead of fomenting them. Remember that '*a soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.*' (Prov. xv. 1.) Remember also from what small seeds bitter strife may grow.




*'The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water ; therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.'* (Prov. xvi. 14.)

*'He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty ; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.'* (Prov. xvi. 32.)

## THE TONGUE.

THE tongue is 'a little member,' yet 'boasteth great things,' and lighteth often a fearful fire of evil. The tongue is your glory, if used for God and for the good and comfort of your fellow-men ; your own shame and the curse of others, if used in the service of Satan.

Do not dare to utter a profane oath, or even to mention God's name without reverence. Keep careful and constant watch over yourself in this respect. It is likely you will hear sometimes profane language. You may be shocked at first ; then so accustomed to the words that you hear them with indifference ; and so without care you may at length come to adopt and imitate them. You are a professed heir of heaven : O do not speak the language of hell.



Do not give utterance to a filthy thought, though it seem in jest. So doing, you corrupt your own mind, and sow in the minds of others seeds, which may ripen into a fearful harvest of pollution in after years. You may repent of vile words, but you cannot recall them, or wipe out the stains which they have left on your own heart and those of others. '*Filthiness, and foolish talking, and jesting,*' are unsuitable for the disciple of Christ. (Eph. v. 4.)\*

'*Above all things, my brethren, swear not.*' (Jam. v. 12.) '*If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.*' (Jam. i. 26.) '*Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; and keep the door of my lips.*' (Ps. cxli. 3.)

\* The word rendered 'jesting' in this passage does not mean pleasant and playful conversation, nowhere forbidden, but 'sinful raillery.' See that excellent little book *The Idle Word*, by Dean Goulburn, p. 104.

## TRUTHFULNESS.

LET there be no attempt to deceive in word or deed. Of such attempts success is dangerous and disgraceful. '*Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord*' (Prov. xii. 22); and an acted lie is no less sinful than a spoken one.

Bad habits, too, grow apace. An untruthful boy is sure to grow up a false and faithless man. Your companions may call you clever, when you deceive your teachers by underhand tricks; but reason, and conscience, and the Bible, and God, condemn the paltry imposture.

Be upright,—be honest,—be guileless.

'Dare to be true: nothing can need a lie.'

Do not swagger, and exaggerate, and

colour stories. Simple truth is strong in itself, and needs no false adornment.

*'Let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.'* (Matt. v. 37.)

*'Putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.'* (Eph. iv. 25.)

See also Prov. vi. 17.

Prov. xii. 19. John, viii. 44.

## PURITY.

IN thought, in word, in deed, cultivate purity. Turn away your eyes from a filthy book or picture. Stop your ears to the filthy jest, or tale, or song. Let not corrupt thoughts and fancies dwell a moment in your mind. They will rise up : prayerfully, resolutely, expel them. Store your memory with texts, and verses of poetry of a high and holy tone, and drive out bad thoughts by encouraging good ones, and evermore lift up your heart to God in the prayer, 'Cleanse Thou me from secret faults.' (Ps. xix. 12.) 'Create in me a clean heart, O God ; and renew a right spirit within me.' (Ps. li. 10.)

Let not the devil and bad companions persuade you that you may safely run into sin

when young, and repent when old. Do not be deceived by empty and dangerous sayings about 'sowing wild oats,' &c. '*He that soweth to the flesh* (whether he be young or old) *shall of the flesh reap corruption.*' (Gal. vi. 8.) Moreover, vile thoughts and habits gain by indulgence fearful power and mastery. It is true of all sins, but specially so of sins of this class, that, '*His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*' (Prov. v. 22.)

O as you would in after life be happy, manly, and useful, watch against the least approach to impurity of heart and life. If the bloom of modesty and morality is rubbed off in youth, you can never in after life be what you might have been.

*'Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.'* (Matt. v. 8.)

*'Flee also youthful lusts.'* (2 Tim. ii. 22.)

See also 1 Pet. ii. 11. Eph. v. 3, 5.

## HUMILITY.

PERHAPS you work hard, and make good progress, and obtain prizes, and stand high in the opinion of your teachers and your companions. Still be humble. '*If any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.*' (1 Cor. viii. 2.) You will find many of your present notions corrected by experience as years roll on.

*Intellectual pride* brings many to scepticism. *Spiritual pride* brings some to a life-long course of hypocrisy, and others to a shameful fall. Many a boy has become, through *pride of superior bodily strength*, a tyrant and a bully ;—through *pride of birth*, a haughty and empty-headed worldling ;—through *pride of personal appearance*, a vain and frivolous fop.



The greatest men have always been the humblest. When the great Sir Isaac Newton was once complimented upon the light which he had thrown upon science by his discoveries, he replied, 'Alas ! I am only like a child picking up pebbles on the shore of the great ocean of truth.'

'What have you that you have not received?' If God has given you superior gifts and talents, why be proud of doing that which it were sin not to do—cultivating and improving them ?

*'Before honour is humility.'* (Prov. xv. 33.)

*'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.'* (Jam. iv. 6.)

## CHOICE OF A PROFESSION.

OF course your choice of a profession must be mainly determined by circumstances, and the wishes of your parents and friends. At the same time it is impossible but that the question of what you shall *do* and *be* in after life must often occupy your mind.

Let me say, then, on this head; Never think ill and meanly of hard work. '*In all labour there is profit.*' A position in which no work is needful, and boundless opportunities of self-pleasing are afforded, may seem to you a very *enviable* but it is certainly a very *dangerous* one. Some have to work with their hands, and some with their heads. The man who does not work at all, and cares not to *make work for himself* by seizing opportunities of doing good, runs a fearful risk

of being condemned at last as having hid his talents in a napkin.

Do not be swayed by idle and foolish prejudices against certain professions and occupations, as though they were beneath you. It is not *where* a man is but *what* he is that is the great question,—not what he is *called* amongst men, but what he really *is* in the sight of God.

Do not think that any profession puts it out of your power to serve, honour, and glorify God, or shuts you out of opportunities of usefulness. *Everywhere* you may confess Christ, and *nowhere* can you be safe and happy if you are ashamed of Him.

*'Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. . . . Let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God.'*  
(1 Cor. vii. 20, 24.)

*'Whether ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.'* (1 Cor. x. 31.)

## SELF-DENIAL.

OUR Lord Jesus Christ said, in words that cannot be mistaken, and must not be explained away, '*If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.*' (Luke, ix. 23.)

In the great matters which concern our soul's salvation self-denial is essential. For to '*walk by faith and not by sight,*'—to bridle the tongue, and curb the temper,—to '*keep under the body,*'—to watch unto prayer,—all this is contrary to our natural inclinations ; it is against the grain, and needs self-control, self-denial.

And in the ordinary course of daily life selfishness is the root of a thousand evils.

No one can be truly amiable, useful, and happy, who has not learnt to say resolutely 'No,' again and again to self when it pleads for indulgence. He who goes on the plan of continually pleasing himself, who makes up his mind to *do* what he likes, and to *say* what he likes, just *because he likes it*, without regard to the feelings and the welfare of others, will soon become a curse instead of a blessing to all around him, and lose the love of all whose love is worth having.

Think of others; care for others; study the wants of others; try to put yourself in the place of others; consider what would most help, benefit, and please others, and act accordingly.

*'We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not Himself.'* (Rom. xv. 1, 2, 3.)

*'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.'* (Gal. vi. 2.)

*'Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.'* (Phil. ii. 4.)

See also Matt. vii. 12.

## INFLUENCE AND EXAMPLE.

EVEN the youngest and least talented have influence, and can set a good or bad example. And it is a certain truth, and a solemn one, that our influence is always telling for good or evil upon all around us. We shall all leave the world something better or worse for our sojourn in it.

Our Lord once set a child amongst His disciples, and made him the subject of a lesson on humility. A boy who is patient under provocation, regular in his conduct, attentive to his duties, obedient to his teachers, and kind, gentle, and considerate towards his companions, does by his *actions* reprove what is wrong and encourage what is right, even if he does not speak a word. On the other hand, one who is fretful, irritable,

untrue, ungenerous, unruly, is always doing the devil's work, stirring up strife, leading others astray, and hardening them in sin.

Try, then, to influence others for good. There need be no ostentation. Modestly, quietly, but perseveringly, try to be a witness for Christ; try to commend religion, and to check strife and sin.

*'Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.'* (Matt. v. 16.)

*'One sinner destroyeth much good.'* (Eccles. ix. 18.)

*'Ye are the salt of the earth.'* (Matt. v. 13.)



## CONFIRMATION.

IF you have not already been confirmed, keep confirmation in view as that which you should think much of and prayerfully prepare for. Do not allow yourself to regard it as a kind of tax which you must pay to keep up a good character; as a season in which a heavy burden will be laid upon you, and an irksome restraint placed on your enjoyment. Rather look upon confirmation as a time of privilege and blessing; as a means of grace; an opportunity for gaining instruction and strength; a precious occasion for confessing Christ before men. It will never make your happiness less to decide for Christ. Wisdom's ways are '*ways of pleasantness and paths of peace.*' (Prov. iii. 17.)

See also Mark, viii. 34-38.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION.

IF already confirmed, do not delay to come to the Lord's table. Come humbly, prayerfully, reverently, but still come full of hope and thankfulness. For in this holy ordinance the good Shepherd feeds His lambs, and strengthens those who are weary with their battle against sin. Do not let the neglect of older people keep you away. Do not be afraid to come. Do not say you are too young to come. You are not too young, alas, to sin, and not too young to die. You cannot be too young to serve and confess the Lord Jesus. And if you come to the Lord's Supper in a right spirit; *e.g.* because Christ bids you to come; because you wish to please Him; because you feel your need

of His blood to cleanse you from sin ; because you desire to be His servant ; then you do not know until you have tried it, how much help, and comfort, and blessing, you will find in that sacred feast.

‘ *This do in remembrance of Me.*’ (Luke, xxii. 19.)

See also 1 Cor. xi. 23-26.

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As a most useful help in preparing for the Holy Communion, see *The Earnest Communicant*, by Bishop Oxenden. (Hatchards.)

## GENERAL CONDUCT.

AIM to be a Christian indeed.

‘A Christian is the highest style of man.’

You have life before you : it depends under God on your use of present time what that life shall be. There have been great and good men. Read their lives and histories, and endeavour to imitate them. You, too, by the grace of God, and your own diligent efforts, may be great and good : or if not *both*, at least *good*, and therefore happy and useful.

I have added a few prayers for your use when you feel to need, and are disposed to accept, such assistance. I can but furnish this slight help : it is the Holy Spirit who must teach you how to pray. O seek His aid. Harken to the Saviour’s loving call, ‘*Follow thou Me ;*’ ‘*My son, give Me thine heart.*’

You have much to assist and encourage you ;—the Bible ; the constant privilege of access to God in prayer ; religious books and religious friends ; parents, teachers, ministers, Sunday services ; with the still small whispers of conscience within ; and the strivings of God's Spirit.

*'Yield yourselves unto God.'* Think it not unmanly to be religious. There are real honour, happiness, safety in the service of God ; whilst it is weak and cowardly, shameful and ruinous, to serve sin. *'Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey ; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness ?'* (Rom. vi. 16.) *'The wages of sin is death.'* (Rom. vi. 23.) Keep always in mind that solemn call, and glorious promise, *'Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing ; and I will receive you, and will be a Father*

*unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.*' (2 Cor. vi. 17, 18.)  
'*Having such a promise,*' my brother, obey the call and give thyself to God ; '*cleansing thyself from all filthiness of flesh and spirit,*' and seeking to '*perfect holiness in the fear of God.*' (2 Cor. vii. 1.)

## Prayers.

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### SUNDAY MORNING.

O God, my Heavenly Father, look with Thy favour upon me, Thine unworthy servant, kneeling at Thy footstool. Thou hast raised me from sleep and hast renewed my life and my strength ; renew, O Lord, a right spirit within me.

Especially on this Thine own holy day grant me Thy grace and blessing. Teach me how to pray. Prepare my heart for the solemn services of Thy sanctuary, and for the profitable reading and hearing of Thy holy word. Make me devout and reverent in Thy house. Let not the evil example of others tempt me to profane and trifle away Thy

holy day. May I gain, whilst waiting upon Thee to-day, fresh strength to resist and overcome besetting sins.

Make me, O God, truly one of Thy children. Let Thy Holy Spirit, for Jesus Christ's sake, cleanse and sanctify my heart. Beat down Satan under my feet. Deliver me from his snares and subtleties. Cleanse me from secret faults. Keep me back from presumptuous sins. Make the reading of religious books, and the advice of religious friends, helpful and profitable to me. O put me into the narrow way of life, and keep me safely in it.

Let Thy blessing rest on my parents, and brothers, and sisters (*or*, my dear friends). Help them in their worship of Thee to-day. May I meet them in spirit at Thy throne of grace. O Lord, teach me ; guide me ; defend me ; now and evermore, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



## SUNDAY EVENING.

AT the close of Thine own day, O Lord, I humbly kneel before Thee. I thank Thee for all that I have heard and learnt to-day. Write Thy truths upon my heart and conscience. Let not the wicked one pluck away the good seed sown. O may I grow in grace and knowledge as I grow in years. May I become more like my Saviour, the oftener I hear about Him.

Forgive, O Lord, the sins of this Sabbath. I confess that my thoughts have often wandered whilst I have knelt before Thee. Pardon the iniquity which has been mixed up with my prayers and praises. Make me love Thy holy day better. Make me to delight more in hearing Thy Gospel preached.

O Heavenly Father, who didst give Thy dear Son to die for me, to save me from sin and hell, keep me ever mindful of Thy love. Let me never forget all that Jesus Christ has done and suffered to redeem my soul. Make me feel that I am Thine. Help me to live to Thy glory.

Take me under Thy care this night. Keep and bless my absent relatives and friends. Make me a comfort and blessing to them. May they see in me the fruit of their care and pains. May their prayers for me be fully answered.

Lord, hear my supplications, for Christ my Saviour's sake. Amen.

## MONDAY MORNING.

O GREAT and gracious God, be pleased to hear and answer, for Jesus Christ's sake, the prayers with which I would begin another day. I come to put myself afresh beneath Thy care. I shall this day meet with temptations, O help me to overcome them. My Father, be Thou the guide of my youth. Implant Thy holy fear within me. Incline my heart to keep Thy law.

I ask, O Lord, Thy blessing upon the studies in which I shall this day be engaged. Thou art the fountain of all wisdom, and hast promised to give wisdom liberally to all who ask it of Thee. Give me such powers of mind as I need for the work before me, that I may be better fitted to serve Thee, and to benefit my fellow-men.

And, O do Thou help me in all things to seek Thy glory with a single eye. Make me to remember that I have nothing good that I have not received of Thee. Keep me always mindful of the worth of my soul, and of the solemn account which I must one day render at the bar of Christ.

Deliver me, O God, from pride and vain-glory, from angry passions and hasty words. Give me the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. Make me useful to those about me. May my words and example be a blessing, and not a curse, to my companions. Be pleased to keep me in bodily health, but especially preserve my soul from evil, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

## MONDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, in mercy hear my prayers, and accept the praises with which I would close another day. I thank Thee for Thy gracious care. I praise Thee for health and strength, for kind friends and relatives, for opportunities of instruction, for many earthly and heavenly blessings. I am greatly favoured : Lord, make me heartily thankful.

And now, O God, I ask, for Jesus Christ's sake, forgiveness for the sins of another day. I have sinned against Thee. Pardon wasted time, hasty tempers, foolish thoughts. Pardon my forgetfulness of Thee. Pardon me for all that I have said or done to-day which might lead others astray. And O give me a heart to love Thee more and serve Thee better. May I make it plain to all, by my

life and actions, that I am Thine. May I hate sin every day more, and take more delight in Thy ways.

Watch over me, gracious God, through this night. Refresh my body with sleep, and keep my heart from all evil thoughts and imaginations.

Shower Thy rich blessings on my dear relatives and friends. Let me not forget their counsels and their love. Hear their prayers for me, and grant that I may meet them in Thy kingdom above, for the sake of Jesus Christ my Redeemer. Amen.

## TUESDAY MORNING.

O MOST merciful God, who art the helper of all that trust in Thee, I beseech Thee to keep me this day from sin. I thank Thee for life and health, and all Thy many mercies. Help me to show forth my thankfulness by endeavouring in all things to please Thee.

Lord, I am weak and helpless : my heart is sinful, and I have many enemies and many dangers to encounter. O do Thou defend and strengthen me. Give me the victory over the devil and over my besetting sins.

Thou art a God of purity. Lord, make and keep me pure ; pure in heart, and pure in life. May I stop my ears to everything that is corrupt and unclean. May I abhor

every impure and unholy thought. Lord, make clean my heart within me ; and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Let my chosen companions be such as fear Thee and walk in Thy ways. Make me bold to confess Thee. Let not the fear of ridicule make me unfaithful. Let me not love the praise of men more than the praise of God. Keep me, O Lord, from following a multitude to do evil, and help me to walk stedfastly in the narrow way of life, for Christ my Saviour's sake. Amen.



## TUESDAY EVENING.

ONCE more, O God, my heavenly Father, I come to thank Thee for Thy goodness, and to ask Thee for Thy blessing. Thou hast brought me through another day.

Let not the sins which I have this day committed come up against me to condemn me at the last day. Blot them all out of Thy book. Wash my soul from guilt.

Write on my heart the truths and lessons of Thy holy word. Through Thy precepts may I get understanding. Through the word of Thy lips may I be kept from the paths of the destroyer. That which I see not teach Thou me : and grant me grace to receive the truth with meekness and reverence.

Give me a tender conscience. Keep me from a hard unfeeling heart. Make me fear

above all things to offend Thee. Show me what I ought to do, and give me grace and strength to do it.

Bless my schoolfellows. Turn their hearts from sin. Lead them in the way to heaven. Help me to recommend religion to them by my gentleness and humility. Lord, hear my prayers, and graciously protect and preserve me now and evermore, for Christ's my Saviour's sake. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY FATHER, who dost so mercifully lengthen out my days, give me Thy grace that I may spend them aright for Thy glory and the welfare of my soul. I thank Thee for rest by night, and health and strength by day. Lord, my days are Thine. Make me to remember this, and always to keep in mind that I shall have to give account of the way in which I have spent them.

O Lord, keep me this day from all evil. Make my heart pure and clean ; and let my tongue speak that which is good, and kind, and useful. Set a watch before my mouth ; keep the door of my lips. Suffer me not to utter hasty, angry, or polluting words. O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake, grant that Thy Holy Spirit may renew and sanctify my heart.

May it be my earnest desire to serve Thee here and to dwell with Thee above.

Make me obedient and submissive to my parents and teachers. Take away all stubbornness and self-will, and make me humble and teachable. I ask Thy blessing upon my studies this day, that I may be diligent in them and be better fitted by them for the work which Thou hast given me to do. Bless those who instruct me, and give success to their labours.

Bless my beloved [parents and] friends. Let all their care and labour for me be abundantly recompensed. O God, be Thou a Father unto me, and make me Thy faithful son and servant, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## WEDNESDAY EVENING.

GRACIOUS GOD, receive in mercy my evening prayer. I have great need to pray, O teach me how to pray aright: and what I ask for with my lips may I truly desire in my heart.

Give me, O Lord, I pray Thee, heavenly wisdom. Give me grace to choose that good part which shall never be taken from me. Make me willing to forsake the world and sin, and to follow Christ.

Lord, Thou knowest how weak I am in myself: make me strong in Thee. May I fear Thee and not man. Preserve me from the evil example of those who forget and dishonour Thee. Let me not speak as they speak, or act as they act. Make me a Christian, in deed and truth. O forsake me

not. Leave me not to be led astray by the wicked one.

I praise Thee for Thy goodness to me through the day. Now, O Lord, guard me through the night. Keep me ever mindful how short and uncertain my time here on earth is, and help me by Thy grace to use it as a season of preparation for a happy eternity. Hear these my prayers, O God, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## THURSDAY MORNING.

FATHER of mercies, hear me when I cry unto Thee in the name of Christ, my Saviour.  
*'Thy hands have made me and fashioned me, give me understanding that I may learn Thy commandments.'*

Each day brings fresh mercies ; I desire to thank Thee for them. Each day brings fresh temptations ; Lord, strengthen me to overcome them. I cannot stand except Thou hold me up. I cannot walk in the right path, except Thou lead me. O God, hold me up, and I shall be safe. Lead me, and I shall not go astray.

Lord, Thou desirest truth in the inward parts. O keep me from all deceitfulness and guile. Make me to fear and hate a lie.

Make me truthful in all that I do and say.  
May nothing tempt me to deceive. O keep  
me in mind that '*Thou, God, seest me;*' and  
that all my words are heard and all my  
thoughts are read by Thee.

Root out of my heart all evil tempers.  
Make me gentle and humble, forgiving and  
forbearing; so that all may know me to be a  
disciple of Christ. O Lord, hear my prayers,  
and make me and keep me Thine for ever,  
for Christ my Saviour's sake. Amen.



## THURSDAY EVENING.

O GOD, let my prayers and praises be now and ever acceptable unto Thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Redeemer.

Thou hast brought me to the close of another day. Ere I lie down to sleep I would bless Thee for all Thy goodness and Thy care. O Lord, how greatly hast Thou favoured me, that I have been born in a Christian land, that I have been taught about Jesus, and have been shown the way to heaven. Make me more deeply thankful for all Thy mercies.

And now I implore Thee, O Lord, to pardon my sins. They are many and great. Enter not into judgment with me. Forgive my foolish, angry words, and sinful tempers,

and pride, and selfishness, and forgetfulness of Thee.

Make me more anxious about my soul's salvation. Make me more desirous to please Thee. May Thy word be more dear to me. May Thy Holy Spirit continually direct and rule my heart.

O let not wicked companions lead me astray. Make me steadfast in doing what I know to be right. Let not evil thoughts dwell within my mind, but do Thou put into me pure and heavenly thoughts. Make my heart clean and my life holy.

O God, bless all those that love me, and bring them and me to Thy kingdom above, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## FRIDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who dwellest on high, and yet condescendest to hear and answer prayers, receive my morning supplications, for Christ's sake. Thou art good and gracious. I bless Thee for all Thy mercy to me. O may I never dishonour and displease Thee who art daily loading me with benefits.

Grant unto me, O Lord, the grace that I need for the duties and trials of another day. Keep me mindful of the shortness of time. So teach me to number my days that I may apply my heart unto wisdom. Help me to redeem that time, and to labour diligently by Thy grace to fit myself for the work to which Thou shalt call me.

And, O let me not forget what Jesus Christ

has done to save me from sin and from hell. Fill my heart with love to that blessed Saviour. Make me to hate the sin which cost Him so much shame and agony. Help me to live as one who is redeemed by His precious blood. Now in the days of my youth may I remember Thee my Creator and Father, and Jesus my Saviour, and the Holy Spirit my Sanctifier. O Thou in whose great Name I have been baptized, and to whom I have been dedicated, make me wholly Thine. Save, O save me with an everlasting salvation.

Bless, O Lord, my teachers, and prosper all their endeavours to do me good. Keep me this day from evil, and graciously hear and answer my prayers, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## FRIDAY EVENING.

O LORD, my God, once more I humbly kneel before Thee, to ask Thee to pity, and pardon, and bless me. Through another day Thou hast safely kept me. I thank Thee for all Thy goodness and Thy care. I ought to love and serve Thee. But, O Lord, how sinful is my heart ; how prone to what is evil ; how forgetful of Thee ! Renew me by Thy Holy Spirit. Make me a new creature in Christ Jesus. May sin be more and more hateful to me ; and may I love more and more Thy word, Thy ways, and Thy people.

Forgive, O Lord, my many sins. Forgive my evil words and tempers. Give me more of that mind which was in Christ my Saviour. Make me more like Him.

And now, O Lord, take me this night beneath Thy care. Wipe out from my mind and memory every bad thing which I have heard or seen to-day. Fill my mind with pure and holy thoughts. O God, Thine eye is upon me. May the recollection of this truth humble and solemnize me. Look Thou upon me for good: make Thy face to shine upon me and save me, for Thy mercy's sake.

O bless my dear [parents and] friends. Lead me in the way in which they would have me to go. Hear these my prayers, and accept my praises, for Christ my Saviour's sake. Amen.

## SATURDAY MORNING.

O GREAT and glorious God, in whose sight even the heavens are not clean, how shall I, who am sinful dust and ashes, come before Thee! I thank Thee that I may come in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour. O hear and help me, for His Name's sake.

Thou hast again refreshed me with rest. I thank Thee for the blessing of peaceful sleep. How many have spent the night in pain, whilst I have slept and risen again in health and peace! Lord, enable me in my life, and not with my lips only, to show forth Thy praise.

Let my mind be stored with useful earthly wisdom; but, above all, do Thou make me wise unto salvation. May I not only learn

how to labour and prosper in this world, but grant that I may know Thee and the way to heaven. And O keep me from sin. Keep me from the devil, who as a roaring lion seeks to devour me. Keep me from evil companions who do his work.

Lord, I desire to be Thine. I desire to serve and follow that blessed Saviour who died for me. O make me bold and faithful to confess Him before men. Let no reproach or ridicule make me ashamed of Christ.

Watch over me this day. In all my studies, and in all my recreations, let me not forget the account which I must one day render at the bar of Christ. And now and ever vouchsafe, O God, to answer and bless me, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.



## SATURDAY EVENING.

O God, my heavenly Father, I would approach Thee with the voice of praise and thanksgiving. Thou hast brought me to the close of another week. Every day has brought me fresh blessings. I thank Thee that Thou hast kept me from many unseen dangers, and hast given me health and strength, and food and clothing. O may all Thy goodness draw my heart to Thee.

And now, O God, pardon my many sins. Help me more faithfully to improve my time and talents. Help me by Thy grace to sow day by day the seeds of a useful and holy life.

If I have wronged and injured any one this week, O Lord, forgive me : and make

me more gentle and kind. If any one has wronged me, teach me freely and heartily to forgive. Take all bitter revengeful feelings out of my heart, and make me more like my Saviour.

Whatever I have learnt this week, that has been true, and good, and holy, let it abide in my memory ; whatever I have heard that was vile and sinful, help me to forget.

Prepare me now for Thy Sabbath. Help me to begin Thy day well. O may I delight to seek Thee, and to hear of Jesus. May Thy Holy Spirit shed the love of that dear Saviour abroad in my heart.

Bless with Thy favour, O Lord, my dear relatives and friends. May they rest in peace beneath Thy care, and may I meet them at last around Thy throne in heaven, for my Redeemer's sake. Amen.

A PRAYER  
BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

O God, my Father, help me by Thy grace to take upon myself, in a right spirit, the vows and promises made for me in my baptism. Strengthen me to renounce and resist the world, the flesh, and the devil. Thou art saying unto me, '*My son, give me thine heart.*' Lord, incline and enable me to obey. Bless the instruction at this time given to me, and grant me a humble and teachable spirit. O Lord, grant that Thy Holy Spirit may take full possession of my heart, and seal me as Thine obedient and happy child. And when I shall openly acknowledge myself bound to serve Thee, O may my heart be drawn towards Thee, and may it be my earnest desire to be Thine for ever. I ask these things in the name of Jesus Christ my Saviour. Amen.

A PRAYER BEFORE  
THE HOLY COMMUNION.

O BLESSED SAVIOUR, who callest me now to Thy holy table, prepare my heart to obey Thy command. Give me deep humility, true repentance, and lively faith. Make me to know my sins, that I may be truly sorry for them, and make me also to know and feel that Thy blood cleanseth from all sin. O my Saviour, make me clean. Heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee. Whilst I kneel at Thy holy table may my love be increased, and my faith strengthened, through the blessed influence of Thy promised Spirit. Make me bold and faithful in confessing Thee before men; and do Thou, O blessed Jesus, confess me as Thine, when Thou comest in the glory of Thy kingdom. Hear me, O most merciful Saviour, for Thine own great name's sake. Amen.

THE END.

BY THE REV. C. H. RAMSDEN,

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